

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALGAR 00332 022117Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /138 W
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FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2447

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS CALGARY 0332

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: ALBERTA GAS EXPORTS

REF: CALGARY 0255

1. IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE MAGNITUDE OF ITS "TAKE OR PAY" GAS PURCHASE COMMITMENTS, TRANSCANADA PIPELINES LTD. IS SEEKING TO ARRANGE 225 BCF EXPORT TO MID-WESTERN GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY, A TENNECO SUBSIDIARY. SALE WOULD BE CONSUMATED OVER TWO YEAR PERIOD (NOV. 1, 1978 - OCT. 31, 1980) AND WOULD INVOLVE FIRM DELIVERIES OF 70 BCF IN BOTH 1979 AND 1980 WITH REMAINING 84 BCF TO BE SENT ON "BEST EFFORT" BASIS. GAS VOLUMES INVOLVED ARE COVERED UNDER EXISTING TRANSCANADA PERMITS, AND IF GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA APPROVES OF MID-WESTERN TRANSACTION, EXPORT APPLICATION WILL BE MADE TO NEB.

2. COMMENT: TRANSCANADA IS HOPEFUL THAT MID-WESTERN SALE CAN BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED PRIOR TO NEB'S SCHEDULED OCTOBER HEARINGS ON CANADIAN GAS SUPPLY. GIVEN CURRENT VOLUMES OF SURPLUS ALBERTA GAS, PROPOSED SALE TO MID-WESTERN WOULD NOT APPEAR TO CONFLICT WITH THE 1.04 BCF/D UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPORT PLANS OF PAN ALBERTA, I.E., THE PREBUILDING OF SOUTHERN SECTIONS OF THE ALASKAN HIGHWAY GAS PIPELINE. LATTER ARGUMENT, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE CITED BY ALBERTA AUTHORITIES AS REASON FOR DISAPPROVING OF GAS SALE TO MID-WESTERN. ANOTHER POSSIBLE COMPLICATION IS FACT THAT GAS VOLUMES INVOLVED MUST FIRST BE OFFERED TO NORTHERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY, A PARTNER OF PAN ALBERTA IN THE ALCAN PROJECT.

TRANSCANADA OFFICIALS ARE FEARFUL THAT NORTHERN NATURAL
MIGHT "ACCEPT" THE ADDITIONAL GAS AND THEN FAIL TO TAKE
STEPS NECESSARY TO EFFECUATE DELIVERIES.
RATTRAY

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Message Attributes

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